

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01636 090843Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W  
-----010479 092041Z /61  
R 080933Z AUG 78  
FM USINT BAGHDAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6559  
INFO USICA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAGHDAD 1636

DEPT FOR NEA/ARN

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SCUL, IZ, US  
SUBJECT: U.S. CULTURAL PROGRAMS IN IRAQ

REF: BAGHDAD 1091

1. ON AUGUST 1, USINTOFFS CALLED ON ABBAS ABDUL AMIR, D.G. OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AT THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND ARTS. THE VISIT HAD TAKEN SOME WEEKS TO ARRANGE VIA THE MFA, AND TOOK PLACE IN PART AS THE RESULT OF ABDUL AMIR'S INITIATIVE, CONVEYED TO US AT THE TIME SALMAN SHUKAR (THE OUD PLAYER) WAS APPLYING FOR HIS VISA.

2. WE HAVE HAD VERY LITTLE CONTACT WITH THE MINISTRY, WHOSE ACTIVE SUPPORT IS REQUIRED FOR ANY CULTURAL UNDERTAKINGS HERE. ABDUL AMIR IS CONSIDERED BY OUR MORE FORTUNATE DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES TO BE ONE OF THE KEY PEOPLE IN OBTAINING APPROVAL AT MIN CULT LEVEL FOR PROPOSED EVENTS. HE WAS EFFUSIVE IN EXPRESSING IRAQ'S DESIRE FOR AND INTEREST IN AMERICAN CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, AND ASSURED US OF PROMPT AND POSITIVE CONSIDERATION OF OUR PORPOSALS.

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3. COMMENT: OTHER FACTORS PLAY A ROLE IN DETERMINING THE GOI'S RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR U.S. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN IRAQ, AND ABDUL AMIR IS NOT THE ONLY ONE TO HAVE A VOICE IN SUCH MATTERS. HIS COMMENTS ARE NONETHELESS THE MOST ENCOURAGING SIGNS WE HAVE YET SEEN OF A WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE OUR PROGRAMS, AND WE SUGGEST THAT BAGHDAD BE INFORMED OF THE TENTATIVE

ITINERARY FOR APPROPRIATE VISITORS.

4. AS MENTIONED REFTTEL, WE CAN ONLY ATTEMPT TO  
OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR THOSE EVENTS OF WHICH WE ARE MADE  
AWARE, AND WELL IN ADVANCE.

PECK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CULTURAL EXCHANGES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BAGHDA01636  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780326-0531  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Message ID:** f8f86d66-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 BAGHDAD 1091  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** U.S. CULTURAL PROGRAMS IN IRAQ  
**TAGS:** SCUL, IZ, US  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014